

SENATE RESOLUTION 35

By Kilby

A RESOLUTION supporting the development of a new high-speed rail corridor connecting Nashville to Knoxville through a portion of southern Fentress County and northern Morgan County.

WHEREAS, Fentress and Morgan counties desire to promote economic development and greater employment opportunities in Fentress and Morgan counties and throughout the Upper Cumberland Region; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Transportation is currently developing a long-range transportation plan "TDOT 2025," which includes the feasibility of passenger service in Tennessee and improved East-West freight service across the State; and

WHEREAS, the development of an improved inter-modal transportation system for Fentress and Morgan counties, the Upper Cumberland Region, and the State is crucial for the timely movement of products and raw materials to markets; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee and Fentress and Morgan counties plan to use TEA-3 funds for improvements and upgrades to the State's transportation system, including the re-connection of Nashville to Knoxville via rail; and

WHEREAS, the new rail corridor would allow freight and passenger service to be reestablished in Fentress and Morgan counties; the freight service will provide broader economic development opportunities for Morgan, Fentress, Putnam, Smith, Wilson, and Davidson counties due to rail competition; and the passenger service would allow greater tourism development to occur and greater labor mobility; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we support the development of a new high speed East-West corridor connecting Nashville to Knoxville through Fentress and Morgan

counties and request an Environmental Impact Assessment for the rail re-connection between Monterey, Clarkrange, and Lansing be performed by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation.